



Modbury North Kindergarten

Water safety procedure

National Quality Standard Area 2 | Children's health and safety

Children have the right to experience quality education and care in an environment that safeguards and promotes their health, safety and wellbeing.

Purpose

All education and care services must have a local water safety policy in place that outlines how they will manage water safety, including during water-based activities, based on a completed risk assessment (Education and Care Services National Regulations (R 168 (2) (a) (iii))).

Aim

Children need opportunities to develop their understanding of the natural environment. Experiences with water encourage active exploration and discovery of the environment. Knowledge of potential hazards associated with water will assist educators to provide a safe, stimulating environment for kindergarten children

Water hazards

A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. Water hazards in a child's learning environment can include:

- > sinks, basins, fish tanks, fishbowls, baths
- > swimming pools, portable pools, spas
- > water courses, ponds, sandpits, clam shells
- > water troughs, containers and buckets used for play, animal drinking containers
- > pooling water

Managing water hazards

Our Director regularly completes risk assessments to identify and assess risks associated with any water hazards and water-based activities. These risk assessments must address:

1. **Active supervision** – children are always actively supervised when there is a risk of access to any water hazard. Active supervision includes:
 - > direct and constant monitoring of children – within arm's length (within 1 to 2 metres)
 - > careful and intentional positioning
 - > scanning and moving around the environment
 - > listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
 - > observing play and anticipating behaviour
 - > higher adult to child ratios

- 2. Eliminating hazards** – water will be emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use. All aspects of the environment are designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling.
- 3. Restricting access** – compliant fencing/barriers.

Water courses and ponds

Water courses must be designed so that the depth of the water, at any point, is less than 300mm. Where a pond (or any other water collection area) has, or has the potential to, pool water at a depth greater than 300mm, then the area is to be fenced with swimming pool fencing compliant with AS 1926.1:2007. Appropriate controls must be implemented to ensure pond water does not become stagnant – refer to Outdoor learning environments standard. A sub-surface bubbler is preferred to remove the need for hoses and portable equipment. Water courses are, where possible, to be directed into areas that have suitable drainage systems to avoid pooling such as sand and garden areas. Fishponds and water features should have a rigid barrier over the water to prevent children from falling in.

Water safety during excursions

Water safety and potential water hazards are considered when undertaking risk assessments for excursions, including routine excursions.

Supporting information

This procedure has been developed using

Water Safety in Education and Care Settings | https://edi.sa.edu.au/library/document-library/people-and-culture/work-health-and-safety/kidsafe/Water_safety_in_education_and_care-settings.pdf

Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority Water Safety Policy Guidelines | <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-08/WaterSafetyPolicyGuidelines.pdf>

Outdoor learning environments standard | <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/docs/infrastructure/property-services/outdoor-learning-environments-standard.pdf>

Approvals

Status: Final

Approved by: Name | Miryana Luksa, Governing council Chair

Approved by: Name | Michelle Pratt, Governing council member

Approval date: 6 December 2024

Next review date: 6 December 2027 (must be 3 years from the approved date)

Revision record

Version: 1.0

Approved by: Name | Timsy Jyoti, Preschool Director

Approved date: 6 December 2024

Next review date: 6 December 2027